

DON'Ts



X The hatchery should not be established at the same site for two consecutive years to prevent infestation by fungus and bacteria.

X During relocation, dry sand should not come in contact with the eggs.



X The hatchery should not be covered on the top or in the shade of trees; fishing nets may be used as covers if required as they will not alter nest temperatures.

X The nests should not be shaded or watered too early during incubation as this could change the sex ratio. Nests may be shaded or watered towards the end of the incubation period to prevent mortality if temperatures are particularly high.



X The hatchlings should never be held in buckets of water or other containers after emergence as they are in a state of "juvenile swimming frenzy".

X Hatchlings should not be released at the same site everyday as it might create a feeding station for fish. Release sites should ideally be several hundred metres apart.



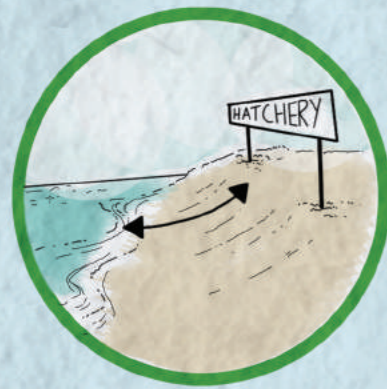
BEST PRACTICES

SEA TURTLE HATCHERIES

Sea turtle nests may be relocated to a hatchery as part of a conservation, research or outreach programme. From a conservation perspective, nests should only be relocated to a hatchery if it is absolutely essential i.e. if there is a significant danger of predation, tidal flooding or other threats.

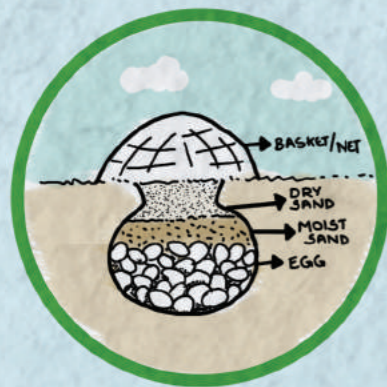
DO's

- ✓ Ensure that you have the required permits for handling eggs and translocation.

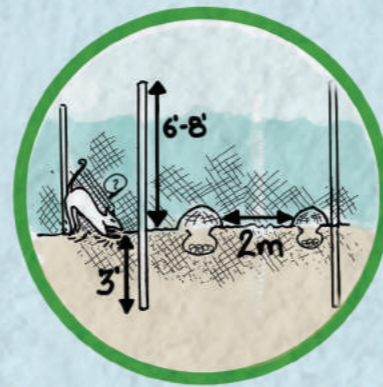


- ✓ The hatchery should be located about 20 to 30m from the high tide line to prevent flooding and should be close to the nesting site.

- ✓ The hatchery should be close to the nesting beach to minimise the time and distance between collection of eggs and their relocation in the hatchery.



- ✓ The shape of the nest should be similar to natural nests i.e. narrow neck and flask shaped bottom. The eggs should be covered first with moist sand and then dry sand may be placed on top.



- ✓ The hatchery walls should be constructed using plastic or metal mesh, 6-8 feet high as a fence, and about 3 feet under the ground, to keep out predators such as dogs, foxes etc.

- ✓ A smaller mesh net or fencing should be used at the base to prevent hatchlings from escaping.

- ✓ The nests should be placed at least 1 to 2 metres from each other to ensure better hatching success.



- ✓ Hatchlings should be released as soon as possible after hatching. However, their time of release should be before sunrise/dawn or after sunset/dusk.

- ✓ While relocating nests, the eggs should be treated carefully, with as little jarring movement as possible.



- ✓ Close to the emergence date, each nest should be covered with a basket/plastic mesh to protect newly hatched turtles from predators and desiccation.

- ✓ The area where the hatchery is to be erected should be devoid of plants, roots, and the sand type should be as similar as possible to that of natural nesting sites. The hatchery wall should be constructed as per the provided instructions.



- ✓ Data should be recorded accurately in a data book for monitoring and research. A placard using appropriate material with basic nest details should be placed above each nest.